



*the*  
**OTHER PRESS**

the Douglas College newspaper since 1976

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**PAGE 18**

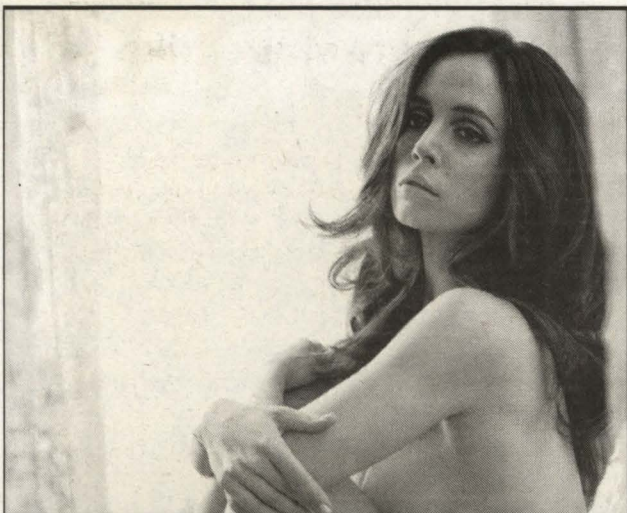
# DOWN FOR THE YEAR

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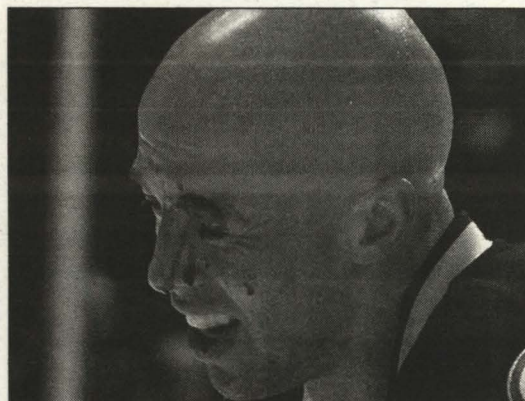
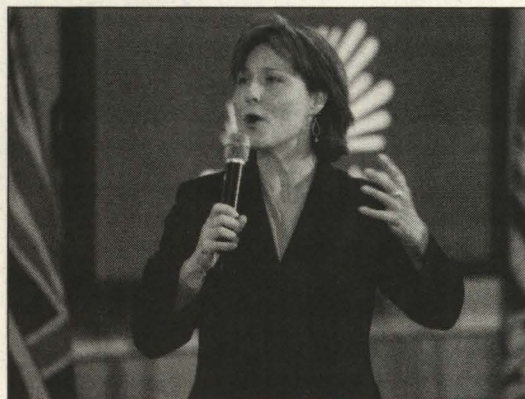
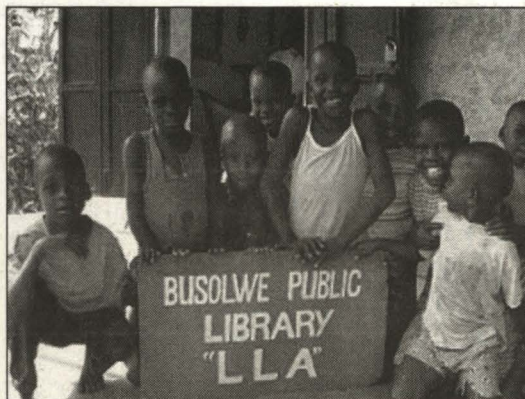
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## THE OTHER PRESS

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# WHO WE ARE

The Other Press has been Douglas College's student newspaper since 1976. Since 1978 we have been an autonomous publication, independent of the student union. We are a registered society under the Society Act of British Columbia, governed by an eight-person board of directors appointed by and from our staff. Our head office is located in the New Westminster campus.

The Other Press is published weekly during the fall and winter semesters, and monthly during the summer. We receive our funding from a student levy collected through tuition fees every semester at

registration, and from local and national advertising revenue. The Other Press is a member of the Canadian University Press (CUP), a syndicate of student newspapers that includes papers from all across Canada.

The Other Press reserves the right to choose what we will publish, and we will not publish material that is hateful, obscene, or condones or promotes illegal activities. Submissions may be edited for clarity and brevity if necessary. All images used are copyright to their respective owners.



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LETTITOR

## Believe it or not, the minimum wage hike isn't a good thing



**Garth McLennan**  
Editor in Chief

**W**hen Christy Clark was campaigning against a slew of senior Liberal party officials for leadership of the embattled political outfit (and premiership of the province) that has seen more scandal than Lindsay Lohan in the last couple of years, she did so under the premise of being an outsider and not doing things with a "business as usual" mindset. After pledging to raise British Columbia's minimum wage, which has been frozen for the last decade, that mindset is certainly coming to fruition.

Without a doubt, boosting the minimum wage from \$8.00 per hour to \$10.25 by May of next year (it will rise incrementally before topping out), is a shrewd political move for Clark. She's made it no secret that she plans to place families first during her tenure as premier, and the minimum wage hike is a good way to distance herself from the outgoing Gordon Campbell, who never exactly came across as a "family first" kind of guy.

But lost amongst the hoopla are the issues with raising the minimum wage, and the reasons why, despite it previously being the lowest in the country, it should have remained the same.

Despite our collective weariness of it, we're still coming out of a recession here that battered businesses across the country. In B.C., gas prices have skyrocketed in recent months thanks to spiralling conflict in the Middle East (or for whatever reason the gas companies want to give us this week...), which in turn increases the cost

of trucking goods across the country, which causes food prices to suppliers to rise, which cuts into profits for related businesses, which are then passed onto us, the consumer.

Then there's the HST, which has negatively affected business for a lot of places. Now, the minimum wage getting increased by close to 35 percent is yet another whack at small business, all of this while business owners are trying to struggle out of the recession.

Yes, there are benefits to boosting the minimum wage (and you won't find any quarrels with the elimination of the infamous training wage in this space) and yes, it hadn't increased with the cost of living and inflation in the last ten years, but this is, quite simply, not the time to raise it. Forcing businesses to enlarge the salaries of their employees during a prolonged period of fiscal uncertainty will only make those businesses pass the additional costs onto the consumer, which is what always happens when operating costs are amplified.

This isn't the type of move that will harm the likes of Safeway, McDonalds or Tim Horton's. Those are massive conglomerates which can more than absorb the blow of an increased payroll. It's small business, the backbone of the B.C. economy, which will be blasted by this.

WRITE FOR US!

**Anyone can get published in the Other Press!** Just email your story to the appropriate section editor from the list on the right.

Please send your file as an MS Word doc file, and include your full name, email address, and word count.

The weekly deadline for submissions is Wednesday night for publication the following Monday. Letters to the Editor and "time-sensitive" articles (weekend news, sports, and cultural reviews) will be accepted until Saturday at noon and can be submitted to the editor at [editor@theotherpress.ca](mailto:editor@theotherpress.ca)

Submissions will be edited for clarity and style.

The Other Press will pay \$50 to any student who writes an article of at least 1,000 words for the "features" section. Submit story ideas to the Editor in Chief. Offer good once per semester per student.

The Other Press holds weekly staff meetings at 6 PM on Mondays in room 1020 of the New Westminster campus. All interested students are welcome.

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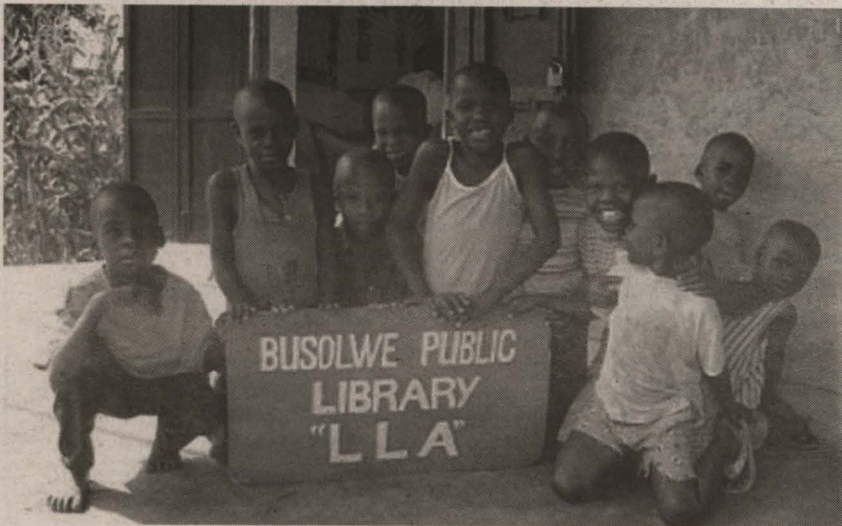
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## Help support reading in Uganda



By Maria Asselin-Roy, Staff Reporter

**D**ouglas college students can easily help the reading culture in Uganda—ultimately helping out the country as a whole by increasing literacy rates. If you are a student who is interested in supporting the development of a pronounced reading culture in Uganda, then you can help make a difference by simply attending a pub night and/or buying a pen or book at the Douglas library.

The Douglas College Library, Faculty of Child, Family, and Community Studies, and the Coquitlam Public Library are all supporting and advertising this action for a good cause. On Thursday,

March 24, students can attend the L2L Pub Night at Woody's Bar and Grill, on 935 Brunette Avenue in Coquitlam. Tickets cost \$20 and include a burger and some beer or wine.

Students can purchase their tickets at the CFCS office in room 2826 at the New West campus, or at the Library at either New West or David Lam. If you are unable to attend pub night and are still looking to help out, you can still support the public library in Busolwe, Uganda by purchasing a book or a pen at either Douglas library. Douglas will be collecting donations until March 30. You can find out more at <http://busolwepubliclibrary.yolasite.com>

## Is social media making us anti-social? Another look at Facebook

By Jenn Markham

**R**ecently in the Tri-City News it was reported that a computer teacher at Pinetree Secondary was challenging his students to stay off Facebook for a week, and blog their progress. Students had varying degrees of success from not making it, to being successful and picking up the phone and hanging out with people in person more.

The Other Press has published a few stories about Facebook lately as well. As a social networking site that was designed for college and university students, it's an important question to ask. The Other Press asked the student body and here's what they said.

"In terms of being able to communicate with people outside the internet, I think Facebook is a hindrance" said Reija Roberts. "It seems like more and more people have phone anxiety, and people are a lot more comfortable telling you things or confronting you online where it's 'safe'. It allows people to be

cowards."

Another student, Arianne Mulligan, said "I think that depends on how you interact normally. I am a very social person, and find that I use Facebook as a positive addition to my friendships. It's a way for me to tell them they're funny (example: liking their status) or share something that I found that would also interest them."

Kennedy Kierans considers herself a regular user because "Facebook is the only social media site I spend any time on. Some days I'm there for several hours, playing apps and chatting with friends. I don't spend that kind of time every day, but I do log in every day." She also said "in my experience, people are more likely to say something rude or hurtful online than they would face-to-face."

Of the students asked, they all used Facebook and recognized the anti-social effects. Keeping off for a week is an interesting challenge if you're looking to test your reliance.

## iPad 2: Why students love it and what Apple is coming out with next



Maria Asselin-Roy  
Staff Reporter

**A**pple claims "Once you pick up the iPad 2, it'll be hard to put down." Apple has yet again come out with something that is thinner, faster, and lighter than the previous model. According to Apple, the second model of the iPad is 33 percent thinner and about 15 percent lighter, making the device more comfortable to hold. This newer model has two cameras instead of one, allowing for both FaceTime and HD video recording. It has the same ten-hour battery life, but with a dual-core A5 chip, basically meaning that there are now two cores in the chip so the iPad can do twice the amount of work at once.

Since the iPad 2 came out in stores in the USA, more copies have been sold than the original iPad. The iPad 2 is scheduled to come out in Canada on March 25, and Apple is expecting similar sales. Many of those who have already bought it in the States have been students, and it appeals to students for a number of reasons. Due to the new fancy chip, multitasking is much easier and smoother. Apps load faster, and even the hard drive is up to nine times faster. According to reviews, students found it very simple to keep track of all of their school assignments while also using the iPad for their personal life such as FaceBook, online games, etc.

The iPad 2 has tons more features and updated apps that are fantastic for students. First of all, the increasingly popular iBooks has been coming out with electronic course content—perhaps replacing the thirty or so pounds of textbooks that most students have lying around their homes or on their back. The iPad can also be used in class for note taking, as it is super light and the keyboard is relatively simple to use. Although, if you are lacking skills with touch screens, Apple has come out with accessory keyboards to attach to your iPad for those who prefer an actual keyboard. The two cameras in the new iPad are great. The camera on the front of the screen would be substantial for

talking to your parents or talking to your friends who may be studying abroad, as it provides a cheap way to talk. The back facing camera could be useful for recording a part of a lecture, this being both beneficial and discreet because most laptops do not have a back facing camera. The iPad 2 also comes fully equipped with the new iMovie and GarageBand, both working at a higher speed than previous versions with more features. Both of these apps make fantastic presentations and class projects. Another great feature for the iPad 2 is the dock connector adapter which you can buy for an additional \$40 or so. With this device, you can mirror your iPad's screen on a TV or a projector. With this function, you can present a class presentation by swiping through slides, drawing and giving examples on a virtual chalkboard, and zoom in and out of pictures.

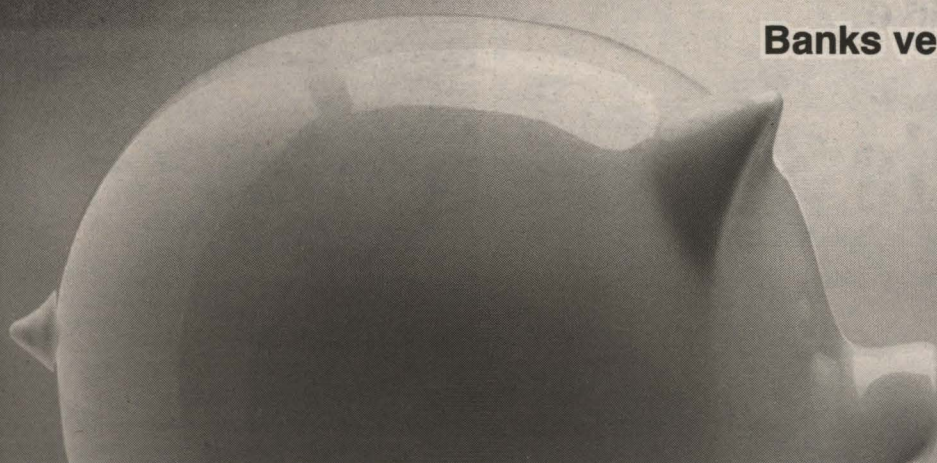
Students found it so useful in fact, that some universities in the states are giving them to students to help with their studies. The University of Kentucky for example, is giving students and staff their very own iPad 2, with a free 18 month trial from Apple. This is because at the University of Kentucky, technology is the main focus, and the iPad 2 is an excellent way to use technology for educational purposes. The director of the school claims that "The iPad 2 offers a bundle of capabilities that enhance its performance as an educational device." It is almost certain that more universities and even high schools in the near future will be receiving similar devices as a part of their tuition or school supplies.

What will Apple come out with next? It is a question that students everywhere are asking, as it seems that Apple comes up with a better model almost monthly. In July, the iPhone 5 will be available in stores. Mac OS X 10.7 also known as the Lion will also be available in the summer of this year. The Lion is a device for desktops and laptops and includes "the iOS homescreen-style Launchpad, full-screen apps, auto-save and auto-resume, auto-hiding scrollbars, and more." There will also be improvements to Apple's AirPlay, MobileMe, and iTunes streaming.



## Conscientious choices about where to bank

### Banks versus credit unions



By Megan Carey

"Friends don't let friends bank," read the quotation on the mug handed out by Laura Peacock, Operations Manual Department Manager at Central 1 Credit Union. Laura came to give a presentation to the students of the Print Futures: Professional Writing program to inform them of what exactly Central 1 does, as they often recruit interns from the program. But, one was left with the question, why wouldn't you let your friends bank? What is the difference? It's a popular subject these days. Credit unions are gaining momentum in British Columbia. In the last few years, approximately one-third of British Columbians who changed financial institutions have switched from banks to credit unions.

Functionally, the two serve the same purpose. They both act as payment agents by operating current accounts, collecting and processing cheques, and conducting payments. Each offer lending and mortgages, investment services, and insurance and they both make profit the same ways through interest rates, transaction fees and financial advice and services.

The difference is in the organizational structure. Banks are regulated by the federal government, and credit unions are regulated provincially. Each type of regulation has its positives and negatives. It depends on what a person's needs are. Kristie Campbell, assistant manager of Envision Financial, says, "I like how currently, credit unions are provincially legislated so that

decision making is done locally." Others would prefer banking under a federal legislation as it would allow for banking flexibility across the country.

Another structural distinction is that credit unions are a member-based organization, meaning that you are required to "buy" a share (usually five dollars) when you open an account. Banks are not member-based, and you are strictly a customer at a business. Campbell feels that being a member is beneficial because as a member with a share in the company, "members get to vote on the board of directors so they have a lot more say in the direction of the credit unions."

To open an account at a credit union, you must have a minimum credit bureau score. The minimum score varies at each institution. Due to federal legislation, banks are prohibited from declining account openings because of low credit bureaus, unless acts of fraud are revealed or money is owed to the government. However, lending at both types of institutions is still based on your credit score, among other requirements.

Aside from legislation and structure, banks and credit unions are fairly similar. Many people believe that the difference is in the service and the "localness". Danya Shima, a former bank customer and current credit union member, says of banks, "They're not very personable, but it all depends on the people that are in them. Everything has to go back east, there was no localness." Recent graduate Caillin Katnich doesn't see much difference, "credit

unions are becoming more like banks because they are getting bigger and more competitive."

As students, banking will become

a large part of our lives, so making the best decision based on your needs seems appropriate.

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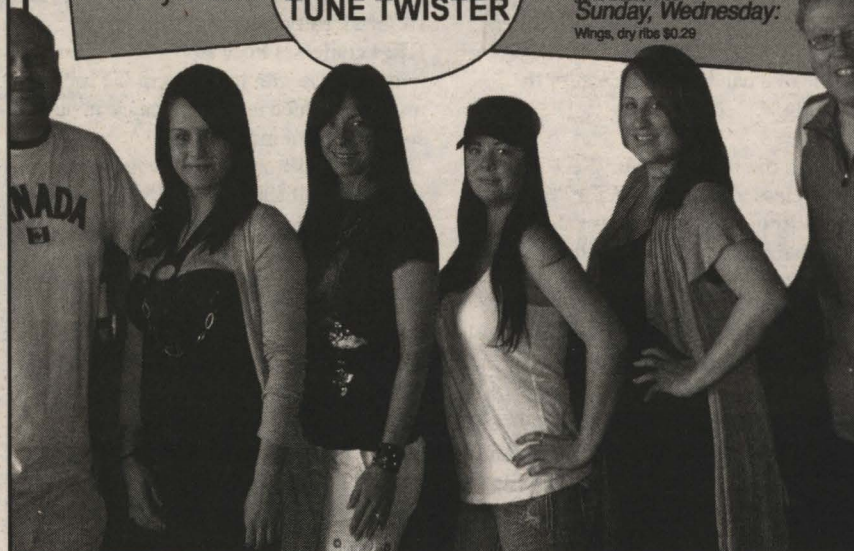
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**Saturday:**  
Double Longislands \$5.50  
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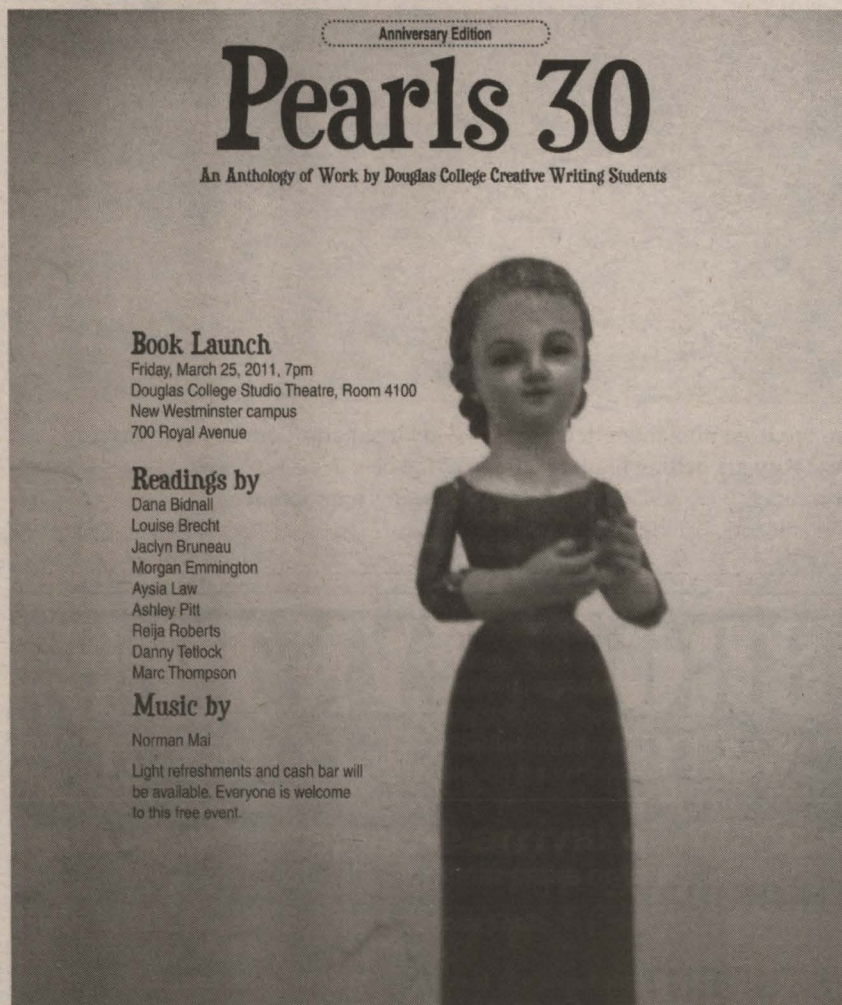
**Monday-Thursday:**  
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## Creative writing students keep Douglas tradition alive

Pearls 30 launches this Friday



By Cody Klyne, Arts Editor

With the launch of the anniversary edition of Douglas College's *Pearls* creative writing anthology just around the corner—this Friday, March 25 at 7:00pm in room 4100 (studio theatre)—I was fortunate to have the chance to speak with contributing writer Reija Roberts. A graduating student of the Print Futures: Professional Writing program, Reija is one of a handful of readers for the evening.

**What's the name of your piece and what class was it written for?**

**Reija Roberts:** The piece is called "Capturing Audrina." It is a short piece of creative non-fiction. It was actually written for Personal Narrative, and the objective was to write something inspired by an artefact. In my case, I picked a photo of my childhood best friend.

**What was your inspiration?**

**RR:** The inspiration was the photo. And also: her. She was a big part of my life growing up. And for some reason, I kept the photo all these years. I figured there had to be some reason.

**What was your reaction when you found out your piece had been chosen for Pearls 30?**

**RR:** I was very pleased. Rick Maddocks had put two of my stories from that class in for consideration, and they picked "Capturing Audrina." I haven't been published much, so it has certainly boosted my confidence.

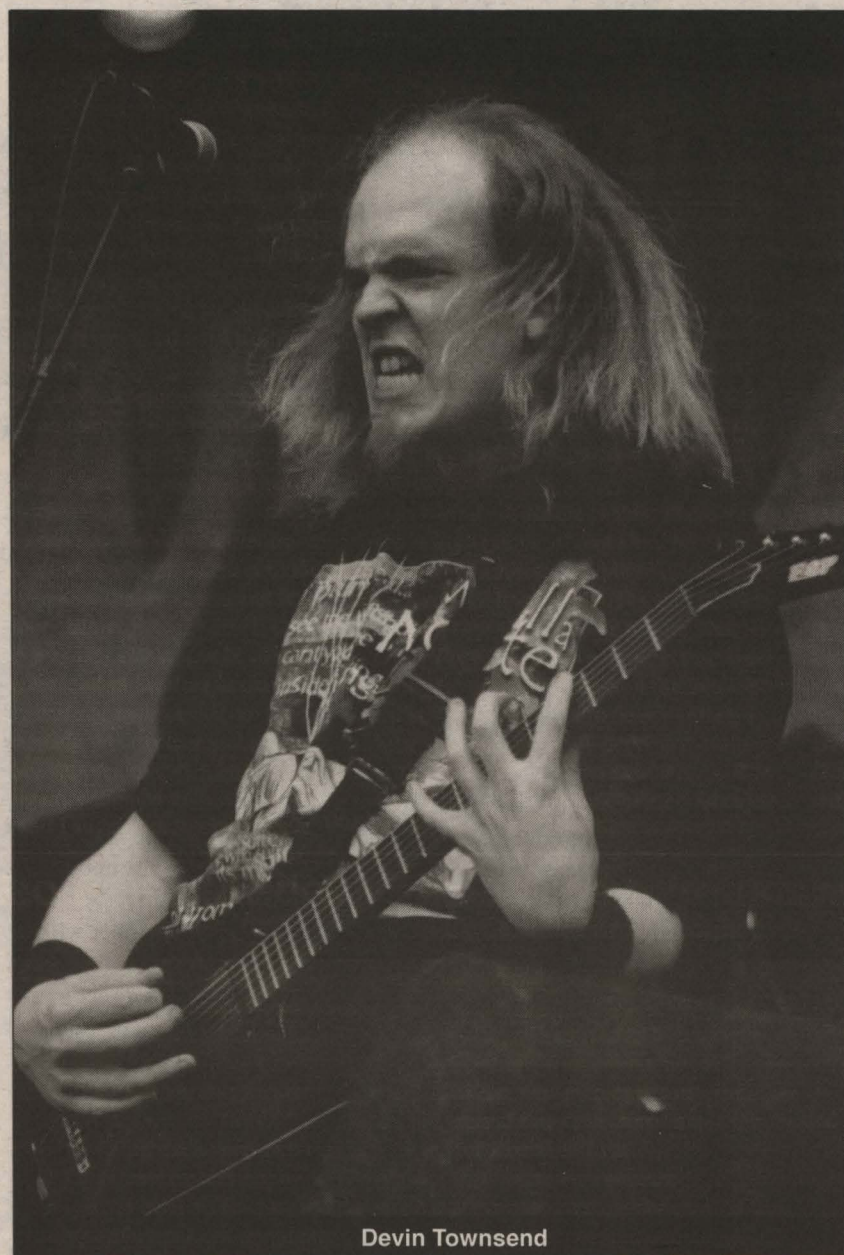
**Was Pearls something that was on your radar already?**

**RR:** I confess, I knew about it and went into the class with it always in the back of my mind, which is good, because it was something to aim for.

**What's one thing people have to look forward to at the reading?**

**RR:** I think that people should take advantage of any opportunity to hear authors reading their work live. It's something that isn't exactly popular these days. It is one thing to read words on a page, but it's another thing entirely to include that auditory element. I really enjoy reading things aloud. Except it usually only happens alone or in front of my cat. I'm sure it'll be a fun event. Also, I think there will be drinks and probably snacks too.

## Allow me to be frank... SIN-atra ain't your grandma's Sinatra



Devin Townsend

By Cody Klyne, Arts Editor

When I was a strapping young lad, I listened to Strapping Young Lad. While I've since fallen off the metal wagon, barring a few bands that I'll never get out of my system, I can appreciate that the genre, the metal machine, has continued chugging along without me.

The over the top vocals, head pounding double kick, and ridiculous stage shows; the people dressed up in latex with gigantic foam genitalia, these are some of the things that I miss and will never forget. Obviously not reflective of the genre as a whole—not everyone can be as cool as Oderus Urungus—a sense of humour, or lack of self seriousness, is what stands out to me now as I look back at my "metal heritage."

Not a stranger to expressing his quirky sense of humour through his

music, onetime Strapping Young Lad lead and New Westminster native, Devin Townsend's latest sees him covering Sinatra classic "New York, New York" as part of the fittingly titled "SIN-atra" metal cover album dropping later this month.

Featuring covers of "It Was a Very Good Year" by Twisted Sister's Dee Snider, "I've Got The World On A String" featuring Doug Pinnick of King's X, "Fly Me to the Moon" by Cheap Trick's Robin Zander, and more. If the few that I listed here are any indication for you, those involved in the project aren't exactly what you'd refer to as the spring chickens of the metal world (excluding aforementioned Townsend, who is always relevant,) but that shouldn't turn you off! The ensemble album composed of 12 covers of classic Sinatra tracks backed by the SIN-atra band, led by Bob Kulick (of Kiss studio fame,) hits store shelves March 29.



# Unravelling 'Unreeled'

Interview with Chris Lee about his upcoming web series



Angela Espinoza  
Arts Reviewer

Everyone has their own hobbies and talents that they intend to do something with. Whether you're a musician or an artist, you've convinced yourself that 'if I do this, it'll be great!' Most of us never follow through with that hunch, but fellow student Chris Lee did. Now, taking the time to sit and chat, Chris discusses what it's like to create his own web series.

## What is 'Unreeled' about?

**Christopher Lee:** [Unreeled] is about a guy named Devon, a college-league hockey player who gets a university scholarship. [Unfortunately], he ends up blowing out his knee and has to go home to try and raise enough money to attend university. He gets [hired] at a movie theatre, which we thought would just be the most degrading job—[partially because] he was always a hometown hero, so everyone knows who he is.

The story's him realizing that even if your dreams are shattered, there are always other opportunities to make something of yourself. We wanted to go with that because, sad as it is, not everybody's going to reach those ultimate goals in their lives. The point of the show is to say that it's not the end of the world; there are other [roads] you can take.

## Who is your character in 'Unreeled'?

**CL:** I play Paul, the antagonist of the series. He and Devon went to high school together and at prom, Devon slept with [Paul's] girlfriend. [Obviously], Paul's always held that against [Devon] because then he played in the college leagues while NHL pro-scouts followed him around.

Basically, we all know some guy who's good at everything, but also did something to us in the past; we know that secret about them.

So my character is always trying to make Devin's life a living nightmare, which often gets him into these 'wacky situations'. In the first episode, he's introduced harassing an old woman at the theatre. He literally grabs her purse and starts going through it. He's very intrusive, [to the point] where he'll attack an old woman because he thinks it's the right thing to do; that's the kind of person he is.

## How did the project get started?

**CL:** Last year I was supporting lead in a romantic comedy with two other guys, Duncan Polson and Ryan Haneman.

[Duncan and Ryan] are the other writers for *Unreeled*, while Devan Vancise, who was also in the movie, is our executive producer. So after filming one night, Duncan dropped the idea [of making a web series]. Then we started talking about it, and Ryan suggested actually writing it because it had potential. So we got on Skype a couple times and tossed around some ideas, and [eventually] we came up with the characters and what the season would [focus on].

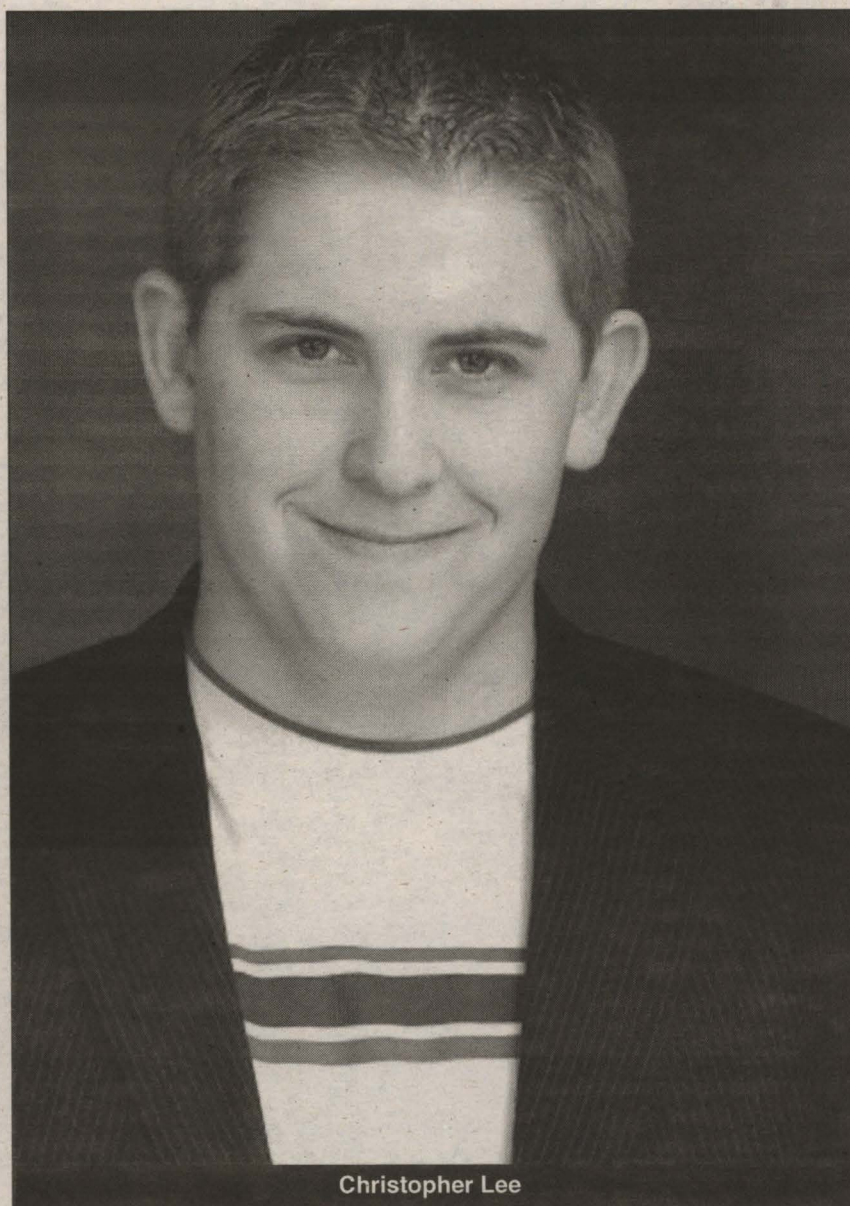
The first season's basically about them trying to keep the theatre open while all this ridiculous stuff happens that threatens to close it down. That's kind of how the idea for [Unreeled] started; we just thought about what the craziest things that [could or] have hindered our work are.

## How would you say your past experiences as an actor will affect the project?

**CL:** I'm primarily a comedic actor; dramatic timing isn't [necessarily] my strong suit. But because I've been taking writing courses at Douglas, I'm understanding stuff like exposition, character structure, and story structure. I realize that we can't have a comedy [solely] based on telling jokes. We want to tell a meaningful story with tension and drama. There's a love story, and there's a lot of character wants [and needs]. But we've managed to interject hilarity into these situations, too.

As an actor, I've seen a lot of people do some wacky things, and [from that] I've taken what and what not to do while writing a comedy. I think I've lived enough of my life to know what's funny and what isn't. My [belief is that] you can't just throw jokes in people's faces. There has to be a real situation people care about, and then the comedy behind that situation.

I think [Unreeled] will be good because all the actors have experience. I can't say what they've done, but I started auditioning for things like student films, and [then I moved onto] independent films. I did one or two indie films that were really good, and from there I started getting seen for other things, like TV movies. [These things build upon each other], then recently I had an audition for *Degrassi*. It didn't pan out the way I wanted it to and the role went to someone else. It films in Toronto, and they'd have to spend a lot to [hire someone from Vancouver] when they could just grab [a local] instead. There's a lot that goes into an audition, but getting an audition alone is an achievement. It'll come down to a hundred things; if they don't like your



Christopher Lee

hair, you won't get the part. Anyway, the work that I've put into past projects, I'm bringing into this one, [and I'm determined] to make it fantastic.

## What would you say factors into making a decent web series?

**CL:** A lot of it is unexpected; this is the first thing I've ever written 'professionally' with a group of people. I've written screenplays by myself that I've scrapped, but I've never dealt with other people's ideas [simultaneously]. I was prepared for pitching jokes and writing meaningful characters and objectives, but not for other people's ideas and what their takes on jokes would be. Things change when you have another person straight up telling you they have a better idea; they're going to be throwing jokes, too. But they have as much of a say as I do; they've put their money and time into it, too. Even our producer Devan, he has ideas all the time.

I wasn't really ready for the business end, it's just happening, and it's a very

unpredictable thing. I didn't even think about re-writes; the story has changed from kind of a wire frame outline into [something way more] fleshed out. I care about my characters now, and I'm really happy about that.

## When can we expect to see 'Unreeled'?

**CL:** We're aiming for August-September 2011. We're in the process of making a trailer right now, so that should be up on the site March 28. Casting will take place in April, and then filming is in May. Then shortly after the season finale airs on YouTube, we should have the first season DVD available, plus some merch. [In the meantime], we're going to have a link on our website to our IndieGoGo page, which is like a fundraising site for independent filmmakers. You can donate from \$1 to \$1,000 to our show, and depending on the size of the donation, there will be various perks.

If you'd like to donate to the project, head over to [unreeledwebseries.blogspot.com](http://unreeledwebseries.blogspot.com). We wish their team the best of luck!



## Why I hate Zack Snyder

A whole different kind of Zack-attack



Sucker Punch

By Angela Espinoza, Arts Reviewer

At some point, you're going to find a filmmaker that becomes the butt of all your jokes. Personally, the one I've grown a seething contempt for is Zack Snyder. Currently, Snyder's filmography consists of *Dawn of the Dead* (2004), *300* (2007), *Watchmen* (2009), *Legend of the Guardians* (2010), and as of this Friday, *Sucker Punch*. Odds are you've seen at least one of the prior four and probably enjoyed it to a certain degree. None of those films are necessarily bad; in fact some of them get a lot right. Snyder has an eye for colour and filters that often give his films a whimsical appeal. "So what's her deal?" you're probably not wondering. Well I'm glad you didn't ask, because I'm going to tell you anyway.

*Dawn of the Dead*, Snyder's first notable endeavour, is to date his most critically acclaimed film. While it really

is tripe compared to the 1978 original, the remake stands as one of the better horror films of the last ten years. This may be because Snyder actually took the time to adapt from the source material and form his own creation. Since then however, Snyder's skills as a 'filmmaker' have sagged. Save for the manipulating of character relevance (and development), not a single film after *Dawn of the Dead* has featured nearly as much initiative. Granted, I've yet to see *Legend of the Guardians*, but I doubt the plight of owls maintains relevance here.

Snyder's next major hit was everyone's favourite meme generator, *300*. The move to copy the Frank Miller-penned comic book series nearly frame-by-frame is something I've always questioned. At the time I knew significantly less about film, but I still felt that to approach something of such magnitude should hold some level of originality (insert *Avatar* joke here).

Really, all that Snyder added was raping Lena Headey and making the villain Xerxes sexually androgynous.

The film led to much controversy, partially for making our heroes appear to be fascist killers, but also for carrying some undertones of homophobia. To be fair, I don't think Snyder meant for his characters to come off as racist; he just mindlessly copied the original frames. However, subtle themes of homophobia and far more obvious themes of misogyny continue to appear in Snyder's films (including *Dawn of the Dead*).

From here we move onto where my deep-seeded hate began, *Watchmen*. Terry Gilliam once said that to transition the iconic mini-series to the big screen would require each of the twelve chapters having their own two-hour film adaptation; I agree. Snyder ambitiously attempted the opposite, and like any dedicated fan boy, he tried his best. Seeing as this is *Watchmen*, though, "do or do not, there

is no try." Again, Snyder mistook scenes meant to place commentary on subjects such as homophobia and took them somewhat literally, and don't even get me started on *Silk Spectre II*.

I'll always consider Snyder a twelve-year-old with a movie camera. His largely R-rated films often cater to his audience in such a simple-minded way, after all. Snyder has proven one fact throughout his career, though. Like the first fifteen minutes of *Dawn of the Dead* and "The Times They Are A-Changing" in *Watchmen*, Snyder has shown he can keep an audience's attention without draining their intelligence. Perhaps Snyder could've been a great music video director, instead of a joke. Again, his eye for colour and even special effects could've made some great videos.

Alas, if you really want to see Snyder try his hand at originality, his first non-adapted feature, *Sucker Punch*, opens this Friday March 25 across Canada.



## Darkspawn be damned, we're in dragon country

Review: *Dragon Age 2* (PC)

By Cody Klyne, Arts Editor

**M**y gut reaction is to say that I loved *Dragon Age 2* (DA2). From its dynamic combat and engaging overarching narrative, to its deeply customizable ability system, the tweaks and changes in this sequel to 2009's *Dragon Age: Origins* (DAO) combine to provide a less daunting and ultimately more organic role-playing experience.

Where things get muddy for me critically is if these changes *feel* like the right direction for a franchise that, until recently, seemed more closely reminiscent of classic games like *Baldur's Gate 2* and *Planescape: Torment* as opposed to more modern fare. Is DA2 simply following the Bioware signature recipe (a-la last year's *Mass Effect 2*) or is it truly a step forward? The answer: a surprising combination of the two.

Right off the bat, one of the most talked about features from its predecessor, the ability to play through a multitude of interestingly varied character origin stories, was cut. Instead, players are shoehorned into the role of "insert name here" Hawke. A runaway from the blight-wrecked town of Loathering, the adventures of the future "Champion" has humble beginnings.

While I appreciated being referred to by name over the course of what could easily be a 40+ hour adventure (particularly in cases where my unfortunate enemies would curse my intervention on whatever harebrained scheme I was thwarting,) I couldn't help but miss the colourful back stories of my dwarf nobleman and impoverished elf from DAO. To make up for this imposed lack of player direction, while still very much a linear experience, the story gains something from the fact that your adventures are couched in a meta-narrative; a story being told at a later day and time by one of the party members met early on. Besides acting as a reprieve from the meat of the adventure, these dialogue heavy cut scenes provide some foreshadowing for what's to come beyond the end of the game proper and force players to question the honesty of the narrator for good or bad. This brings me to my next point and one of Bioware's greatest strengths as a developer: dialogue and characters.

Much like DAO, DA2 is chalked full of interesting, complex, and thoughtful characters. While certain archetypes remain—sarcastic sidekick, haughty nihilist, and the busty love

interest—there's enough variety, humour and sincerity at the core of character attitudes and motivations that make this sequel's treatment of relationships, and the significance of your party members, a more satisfying experience. Unlike in its predecessor where one could potentially anger a companion to the point of their leaving the group (essentially removing themselves from the game,) DA2 introduces the much more liberal "friend or rival" system. Depending on your responses, actions, and treatment of non-critical characters through side quests, companions will gain points towards becoming your friend or rival.

What's interesting here is that, depending on which camp any given character is in, characters receive a stat boost reflecting their perspective of you. Treat the naïve Dalish mage Merrill like an ignorant wide-eyed child? She receives the "outcast" status and +10% to damage resistance. While this sort of thing has little bearing on whether or not they will support you (they will always support you) the list of bonuses derived from this alignment is pretty impressive and can act as a deciding factor, and perhaps even persuade players to make decisions they might not have otherwise considered, depending on who they're with at any given time. Tied-in as part of the expansive skill tree, this change in particular helps to make up for not being able to customize and develop your party in other ways (such as the inability to change the majority of their equipment).

Much like DAO, combat in DA2 can be as fast or as plodding as desired. Utilizing the same pause mechanic to freeze combat in motion, enemy encounters feel just as rewarding as ever... if only a little less strategic. While I admit to playing the game on normal difficulty, I rarely found the need to spend minutes agonizing over unit placement and instead kept things quick and dirty. Besides, considering the immense graphical and stylistic improvements made over DAO—don't even get me started on the overhauled animations and lighting effects—sitting back and watching as your party lays waste to a mob of nasties is easier than ever to appreciate.

At its best, DA2 is a refinement and step forward for one of the most discussed and acclaimed franchises in recent years. At its worst, it's the reflection of a dangerous trend towards streamlined and simplified game play at long time "hardcore" development studio, Bioware.

4/5



## Oh! To be human!

Wild Honey at UBC flowers into spring romance



By Julia Siedlanowska

**W**hen I attended Wednesday nights preview of *Wild Honey* at the University of British Columbia, I was impressed by the work that up and coming director Brian Cochrane had created. Cochrane is one of two students accepted annually into the MFA Directing program at UBC, and is directing Michael Fayn's adaptation of Anton Chekov's original work.

The story is of the irresistibly irresponsible womanizer Mikhail Platonov (played by Benjamin Whipple), and all the people who fall under his charm one summers night. The story is as tragic as it is comedic. All the while when this man is telling the women around him that falling in love with him will only ruin their lives, they flock to him all the more. The men also fall under his charms, passing his rudeness off as jest and entertainment.

With all the people blindly in love with Platonov, we see they're mistaken—it is blatantly obvious—and yet the writing, acting and directing of this piece so skilfully manages to make it believable. The production does a good job in uncovering the truths for these farcical characters. After Platonov has simultaneously managed to woo three women to his beck and call (not including his wife), one of them being married, while he has fulfilled his premonition of ruining their lives, he still manages to pity himself, and complain about his twisted arm. We are also

stupefied by Marya Yefimovna Greckova (played by Christine Quintana), who still falls into Platonov's arms after he has spent their entire acquaintance calling her "Beetlejuice" and making her cry. Yet the actors (all students at UBC) have managed to find the charm and humour in each character, and the tragedy or darkness of the play is veiled in a most delightful atmosphere of comedy.

The set design and staging of the play was beautiful. Great clumps of rope hung down from the ceiling to the ground and served as trees. The set also included a cottage house that split in two. This was an inventive way to maximize its use (as it served as three cottage house settings). A train was made by rolling tracks out onto the stage, and a smoke machine with a red light downstage. The sound effects were also very well done—at one point we had the illusion of the rain rolling over us. The general atmosphere is that of a warm summer night in the country somewhere in Europe full of romance and fireworks, with the occasional tonal change of things not being so beautiful for everyone. The mood left me saying "Oh! To be human..."

The story was successfully told, and I was pleased to see a young director, and many young actors full of so much innovation and capability to bring theatre into the world.

**Who:** Theatre at UBC

**What:** *Wild Honey*

**Where:** Frederick Wood Theatre

**When:** March 17- 26



Battle of the Brands:

# Cell phone style

Private or corporate, which cell service is your style?



By **Stephanie Trembath**,  
Life and Style Editor

Cellular technology has become an icon of our environment; if you do not own a blackberry, iphone, or HTC android than you are definitely not "in cellular vogue". Personally, I view these recent changes to mobile devices with the greatest disdain; I was content with my little LG flip that I could use to talk and text, but times have changed, and my little flip phone is comparable to denim overalls and tie-dyed t-shirts.

For the last month I have been sans cell phone as a result of my indecisive nature, and due to my prolonged research of mobile network service providers in Canada. Because I am a student and work part time, and as I live on my own and have no land-line, finding a service provider that balances my budget with the latest cellular technology is more time consuming than I imagined. My choice is limited to signing with a large corporate company, "Robelus" (which is Mobilicity's knick-name for Rogers, Bell, and Telus) or to go with a smaller, independently owned company with no contracts and unlimited talk and text.

Canada has three national wireless providers; Bell mobility, Telus Mobility,

and Rogers Wireless. These three national companies own more than three quarters of the total revenues from mobile users, and they also own multiple cellular brands. Chatr and Fido are both brands owned by Rogers; Virgin and Solo Mobile are owned by Bell; and Koodo is owned by Telus. In November of 2009, Bell mobility and Telus merged, so they equally own and share their network. These three telecommunications companies also provide internet and satellite services.

There are only a few well known, private, and independently owned advanced wireless service providers in Canada which are Wind mobile, Public Mobile, and Mobilicity. As the hottest rising wireless provider; Mobilicity signed over 94,000 subscribers last year and hopes to continue to steal from the 16.8 billion dollar wireless market dominated by Robelus, which pales in comparison to the 6,833,000 subscribers that Bell Mobility signed in 2009.

Signing with a larger corporate company has major perks as they offer warranty on all of their mobile products, so if you damage or lose your blackberry smartphone, you will get a free replacement for no charge. Mobilicity charges \$7 monthly for warranty on

all of their products. Likewise, larger service providers offer contracts with better packages, less fees, and better service province wide. The downside to this plan? You have to sign a one to three year contract to get a nicer phone with all the perks. Independent service providers such as Mobilicity and Wind Mobile go with no contracts and offer unlimited talk and text for as little as \$20 monthly. The only catch to this awesome plan is that these independent companies do "zoning" which means that if your cell phone is not in a service "zone" you will not be able to send or receive calls or text messages.

I personally have experienced the luxury of corporate companies such as Telus and Bell, and signed contracts to get the better, newer, faster merchandise, with the added frills of caller ID and voicemail. However, I have also been trapped in contracts for up to three years (which is a ridiculously long time, especially if you decide to travel) and have had minor complaints that were ignored and disregarded. Because these companies have such large revenues, losing one small scale customer is not as important to them as it would be for a privately owned company; which is why Mobilicity offers no contracts with unlimited calling, texting, long distance, and internet for as

low as \$40 monthly. The only downside I found with Mobilicity; I had absolutely no service in specific areas such as up at SFU and other areas in the lower mainland, as it was out of the tower service range.

After signing contracts, experiencing problems with my mobile devices, and trying out smaller independent companies, I have come to a conclusion that if you want to own a cell phone, buy the merchandise and go on month to month plans. My reasoning? If I do not have \$500 to drop on the latest iphone is it worth being tied down to "Robelus" for three years? Certainly not, especially since the iphone 5 and 6 will most likely be out by then.

While independent companies are perfect if you have a personal land line and only use your phone every so often, they are not ideal for someone such as myself who spends the majority of her time at SFU where my phone has absolutely no service. So, my advice; if you cannot afford a spiffy new smartphone without signing off the next three years of your life to a company who doesn't necessary care about your best interests, buy something you can afford and go on monthly plans that you can opt out of at any given moment.



## Get Healthy: VANCOUVER'S ANNUAL HEALTHY CHEF COMPETITION



**Stephanie Trembath**  
Life and Style Editor

Promoting healthy eating at an event with over ten well-known restaurants and hotels competing for the titled prize is Vancouver's own Healthy Chef Competition, which is hosted at the Hyatt regency hotel each year. The competition, which promotes the consumption of fresh fruits and veggies at every meal, includes some of Vancouver's best chefs, apprentices, and sous chefs, to create healthy, fun, and savoury dishes in fine dining. Sponsored by the BC Chef's Association, and the British Columbia Produce Marketing Association [BCPMA], Healthy Chef was a hit once again with savoury dishes that showcased healthy choices.

This year the Healthy Plate award went to the River Rock Casino for their Tandoori beef tenderloin and Tikki vegetables, accompanied by mint chutney with beef coulis. The award for Best Dessert went to the Gold Fish Pacific Kitchen for their dessert trio which included; pineapple yoghurt mousse, white chocolate apple cake, and strawberry panna cotta.

Eating a well-rounded diet of fresh fruits and vegetables is one way to stay healthy, but there are other ways to maintain a balanced diet and get the nutrition you need from your meals:

### Eat local:

Supporting local farmers markets is better for you, as well as smaller businesses and the local economy. Locally grown produce is fresher as it is often picked and packaged a day before you purchase, whereas large supermarkets store and freeze their produce for weeks. Local produce tastes better as a result. The 100-Mile Diet is becoming the latest craze, which involves eating locally raised and produced food that is grown in a 100 mile radius from where you live. This

new fad is said to be better than eating organic, as consumers are in touch with the seasons and the food sources available at each time of year, which is said to introduce new flavours and increase your health.



### Eat with Chopsticks:

Chopsticks have been used in China since the Han Dynasty, around 200BC, whereas the fork was introduced in the French court in the mid 1500's. While chopsticks can be difficult to use, especially if you are unskilled and new in this area, there are a few benefits to using these tricky little sticks; it is more difficult to scoop up large amounts of food on a chopstick than it is a fork or spoon, and you have to work a little bit harder to pick up what you are eating. For this reason, it forces you to slow down what you eat, which is beneficial as your stomach will begin to digest your food faster than you can shove it in your mouth and you will realize you are full quicker as a result. Rather than obsess over your portion sizes, look at how big your utensils or dishes are first.

### Eat more often:

Eating smaller meals, more frequently, rather than consuming large amounts of food three times a day will result in less snacking and stocking up on sugary foods. Eating less frequently slows down the metabolism, which also puts your body at risk as you will crave something sweet and packed full of

caffeine or sugar to give your adrenaline and energy source a boost. On the other hand, if you eat more often your metabolism will not have a chance to slow to a standstill, and you won't feel the need to stuff yourself when you do get a chance to sit down and eat.

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# Minimum wage, maximum carnage

**DEC: How Christy Clark has turned the miracle of the long-awaited wage hike into a potential disaster for students and the B.C. economy**

By Knowlton Thomas

I recall the very first article I wrote for this paper back in 2009. It was about the Harmonized Sales Tax, and seriously questioned the method by which then-Premier Gordon Campbell implemented it. The move, as my article forecasted, was devastating—both to B.C. residents and to Campbell's political career.

After a long overdue resignation by Mr. Campbell in early November of last year, Christy Clark was recently appointed his successor. Clark, like nearly every politician does, promised change. And she, like Campbell, did so: only a couple of weeks into her stint as this province's premier, she has made a quick, bold move that, like the HST, will shake the very foundations of B.C. You've probably heard it by now: Clark announced that the minimum wage is being raised from \$8.00 to \$8.75 in May, and will be up to \$10.25 by May of next year. That's correct. A 28 percent wage hike in a single year.

So we must once again ask the question: is this a good move or bad?

Well, first of all, the students of Douglas will answer with a resounding "YES!" This is expected, of course. But, like most things in life, this change is not so simple. There are implications—a large stone has been thrown into a big pond, and most everyone will feel the ripples whether they see them coming or not.

The potential negative consequences of this decision are significant. It begins with business, and the rules of business are basic. Some points to consider: First, the purpose of a company is to generate profit (or break-even if it's an NPO). Second, profit is the result of taking a company's net earnings and deducting from that number the company's net costs. Third, the wage of a company's employees is a component of its net costs. Which loops us back to Clark's move and my fourth point: this wage hike increases the costs of the operations of many businesses in our province.

Now, you may not care about this. After all, you're probably not a shareholder in the company, so why worry about its profit? As long as you get your paycheque, right? Wrong, unfortunately. See, the company you work for is going to want to maintain its profit margin (if not constantly strive to increase it). Therefore, if a hike to the minimum wage increases a company's costs in that area, it will look to cut costs in another area. This may affect you indirectly, such as lost opportunities for promotions and raises, or directly, such as lost hours or even layoffs.

The other indirect negative implication this wage hike could have on students (and all consumers, for that matter) is raised costs. Take grocery stores, for example. Most of them pay the vast majority of their front-end and ground-floor staff minimum wage or close enough to it. If everyone suddenly gets a 28 percent raise, the cost of doing business goes up—and if they don't cut hours or lay people off, they'll simply raise the costs of their products. This will apply to many other types of companies: coffee shops, pubs and restaurants, retail outlets, convenience stores, banks and credit unions, etc. Anywhere you can think that pays at least some of its employee base minimum wage or even remotely close to it, costs may very well go up. And trust me, this is virtually every business, because the ripple effect will see people making as much as \$20 or more per hour ask for raises; the uppers will not want to see entry level staff get a 28 percent raise while they get nothing.

Christy Clark isn't completely stupid. She knows businesses need such substantial raise hikes to occur transitionally, which is why she is executing the hike over multiple increments. But it's still a bad mix, like water and oil: one year is too short, and 28 percent is too much. Such a hike should transition over at least two years. The increments will ease the pain slightly, but it's like B.C.'s economy taking one pain killer when it needs at least two or



three—the headache is still apt to be felt.

All of this granted, let's not act like the world is over. The B.C. economy isn't going to collapse; it's taken harder blows in the past. And, potential cutbacks in hours and staff aside, students stand to benefit the most: many currently work for between \$8 and \$11 per hour, so in a little over a year; they're all going to make a fair bit more. As mentioned, some may lose hours, some may get laid off, and that's very tragic. But it's not the Great Depression. Most businesses will absorb the shock of raised costs or cut back in areas that don't affect employees or consumers as directly. As long as students can land jobs in what will become a tighter, more competitive space, they will be reaping the benefits of a groundbreaking, meteoric wage hike.

Our best idea of knowing whether this will work is a simple cross-country comparison. Do so, and you realize we're long due for this change—it's been a remarkable ten years since B.C.'s minimum wage was last raised, and in that time, costs of tuition and virtually everything else has climbed substantially. Even with the 28 percent hike, \$10.25 is not an extraordinarily high minimum. In Newfoundland, the minimum wage is already \$10, and in Ontario, it's already \$10.25. And, not that job prospects are bright there, but Nunavut has Canada's highest minimum wage at \$11. In fact, at \$8, B.C. pays its workers the lowest minimum wage of all! The second lowest

is nearly a dollar higher (Alberta at \$8.80). If the rest of Canada can handle these wages, so can B.C. The only question remained to be answered is how rough this shift will be.

Initially, we're probably looking at a shaky transition, but over the long term, Clark's move is both necessary and positively impacting.

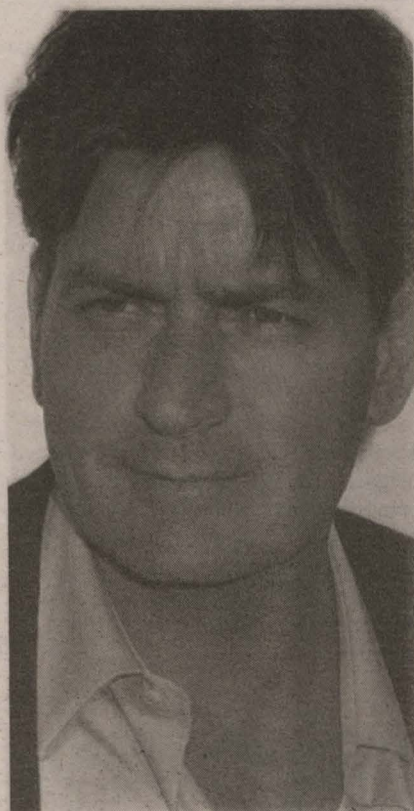
**SIDEBAR: Farewell to the training wage, and good riddance!**

Minimum wage controversies aside, one good thing Clark did in relation to this move was abolish the "training wage." This wage was \$6 per hour for employee's first 500 hours of working a job (should the employer choose to implement it). That is more than four months of working full time! And you would make a pathetic \$240 per week, maximum, before deductions—which would equate to a paltry \$12,500 annual salary.

These numbers are scary enough, but they probably don't even apply to you. If you're a student, you're more likely working eight to 20 hours per week, in which case breaking out of this poverty could take anywhere from eight months to over a year. The training wage was an insulting, unacceptably low form of compensation for absolutely any job, and no negative implications will arise from this abolishment—any business relying on this option to maintain profits should probably revisit their finances.



## Battle-tested bayonets, bro—The passion of the Sheen



By Charlie Black

How many different ways can an article like this start? There could be a critical jab at the media importance of a celebrity-gone-crazy compared to that of international crises and natural disasters (an ill-timed pun about meltdowns, anyone?). Perhaps it could start off with some ludicrous quote to emphasize the wildness of the story ("I don't know, man, I was bangin' seven-gram rocks and finishing them 'cause that's how I roll" comes to mind as a standout, among other one-liners). The fact of the matter is just like the man himself, people are unsure of what to make of Charlie Sheen's recent publicity blitz.

As has been well-covered everywhere, from Good Morning America to Sheen's own basement talk show, the Golden Globe-winning actor's drug-fuelled escapades and recent firing from the top-rated CBS sitcom *Two and a Half Men* have made entertainment headlines. Many argue that this is a descent into mental illness and insist that Sheen requires immediate help, whilst the more passive crowd blames his batch-o'-crazy on his known drug history and dismiss his antics as those of a party-hardy celebrity who intends to fill out the "My Generation" pledge before it's too late for him (for those who need it quoted, "I hope I die before I get old").

Let it be stated as it must: there are bigger things to worry about in this day and age. Uprisings in the Middle East, earthquakes in Japan and threats of nuclear meltdowns are flying about, and yet the crisis on the lips of many is the personal madness of a man who is running around shouting about how he won Best Picture at twenty years old. What we are witnessing here is a safe crisis. Something we can watch from afar, feel whatever varying level of sympathy for, make jokes about and then move on. It is inappropriate to make jokes about Japan, as recently-fired AFLAC spokesman and bad-taste connoisseur Gilbert Gottfried has proven ("Japan is really advanced. They don't go to the beach. The beach comes to them"), and any Libyan Revolution jokes that have emerged are also undoubtedly in poor taste.

Charlie Sheen provides the public with an easy target to take our personal grief out on. We may quote him until our faces turn blue (with WINNING) and swing our machetes of levity on rooftops, surrounded by "goddesses" if readily available, because there's no guilt involved. After all, true suffering is going on in Japan and Libya and other places in the world that aren't in the headlines, right?

All levity aside, what must be remembered is that while we laugh now, no one knows where Charlie Sheen will end up once his winning streak ends. Perhaps broke and drug-addicted? Abandoned by his loved ones whom he has scorned in the name of tiger blood? Dead? It's a reality that this man may be breaking down slowly, and as long as we laugh and supply him with attention, his spiralling will continue. I fear that Charlie Sheen will become an overnight Michael Jackson if he were to die of an overdose or suicide. Laughed at and scorned in life then suddenly canonized once his heart stops beating. Such a fickle culture may be less-than kind to Sheen's body of work than to Jackson's (*Two and a Half Men* is no *'Thriller'*), but the man is at risk of harming himself and possibly others. Being the easiest target, his tragedy is the easiest to overlook on the world stage.

It was once said that "one death is a tragedy, a million deaths is a statistic." No matter the categorization, while our prayers and coffers go to Japan, and while we hold our tongues about worldwide crises, perhaps we should watch where our negative energy goes, before it goes too far.

"Dying's for fools," says a foolish man.

## Free water bottles fail to quench my thirst for change

Petition has right idea but wrong execution



By Jacey Gibb

I think I speak for everyone when I say free stuff is awesome! An item's coolness factor nearly doubles when the reveal comes that it was acquired for free, followed shortly by either a 'how' or a 'from where'. The bestowing of free merchandise is also to thank for the sudden spike in water bottle sightings on campus, since they were distributed as incentives for people to sign the petition to ban bottled water at Douglas College. But these free gifts are coming at a lesser known cost.

If the battle against bottled water sounds familiar, you may have read the 'War of the Words' a few issues back that weighed some of the ups and downs of banning them in post-secondary institutes across Canada. I am in full support of this action, though I argued in opposition before, and I willingly signed the petition. However, when I began to admire my sleek new re-usable water bottle, I noticed the '1' inside the triangle on the bottom. It has sat in my locker, unused, ever since.

I've heard many myths as to what this number is supposed to represent, like "it shows how many times you're supposed to use it before throwing it away" or even complete dismissals of it all together. The number is meant to inform the user what kind of plastic the bottle is made of and in this case, it's

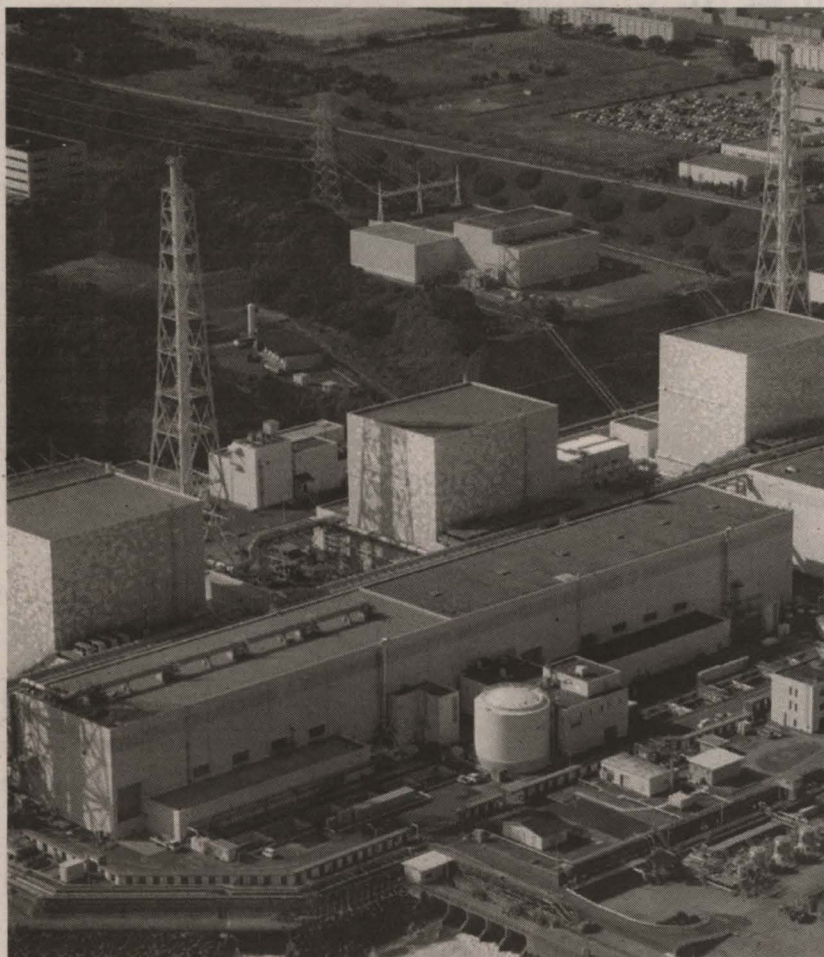
PETE or polyethyleneterephthalate. Sound it out, yeah? Bottles made out of this plastic are meant to only be used once, as opposed to the repeated daily use that water bottles get. The reason for this is chemicals have been shown to leech into the water after extended periods of time. Bottled water is almost always made of this plastic.

It is probably safe to say that the mass handout of water bottles last Thursday has already saved a good amount of containers from making their merry little ways into landfills. Good for the environment! But does this have to come at a negative effect towards our health?

If you are the owner of one of these plastic blue water bottles, I would first like to congratulate you for helping to make Douglas College a bottled water-free campus. I just wish they had chosen to hand out a different kind of container. A friend of mine helped with the petition at Mount Royal University in Calgary and they chose to hand out bottles made of stainless steel, which don't leech. If you're looking to join this bottle revolution, I'd recommend going out and buying either a stainless steel water bottle or at least a plastic one with the numbers two, four, or five on it. As for the plastic bottle lurking in the depths of my locker, I'm currently brainstorming various crafts for which I can use it for.



## Hammer's mark: Is it time to dismantle the 'nuclear' family?



By Jeff Hammersmark

Newspapers all over are being flooded with articles about the devastation in Japan. This week, my column is not an exception, although I don't want to focus specifically on the Japanese disaster, but rather on one of its effects. Due to the events that have occurred over the last week, the world is very closely scrutinizing nuclear power. Long touted as a clean, cheap source of energy, nuclear power plants have popped up in most industrialized nations. It has always had its opponents, particularly in the environmentalist community, but with the spotlight on the Fukushima nuclear plant in Japan, more people seem to be joining the opposition.

In a world with a very large and growing need for energy, nuclear power has its place. One could argue that the energy produced by nuclear plants would need to be produced one way or another, and would potentially need to be generated via dirty methods such as coal burning. But how dirty is nuclear energy? It may not be associated with significant air pollution like coal plants are or with habitat loss and land damage like large scale hydroelectric energy generation, but nuclear does have a lot of downsides. The first and most

obvious is becoming apparent right now: Nuclear power is highly dependent on proper management and safeguards to prevent a disaster from happening. This not only applies to the active process of generating energy from fissile material, but also applies to the by-products of nuclear power generation.

The spent fuel rod storage tank in Fukushima is a perfect example of how nuclear power remains risky even after the power generation phase. The fuel rods there have long stopped being productive, but due to the length of time they remain dangerously radioactive, they must be stored and cooled in water. When that water is removed, as we saw in Japan, the radioactive fuel rods overheat and become extremely dangerous. Of course, we also have the productive nuclear fuel requiring careful management to ensure the process of nuclear fission does not cause damage, or disaster. Granted, Fukushima is one isolated and extreme case, and the vast majority of nuclear plants manage their operations in a completely safe manner...but isn't there something inherently and intuitively wrong with depending on a source of energy that contains so much potential for disaster? Are we really okay with a source of energy that, while generally safe, has the

potential to render land uninhabitable and entire regions radioactively hazardous for years to come? Nuclear has its supporters for sure, including up until recently myself, but I would argue that most people, if presented with a better alternative, would rather see nuclear go the way of the dodo. With the nuclear drama unfolding in Japan, we may be at a turning point.

Alternative energy has been around for a long time, it's just been really expensive and under-productive. With climate change becoming a widely accepted threat, and energy needs continuing to grow exponentially, investment in alternative energy has never been higher. This has led to a decrease in cost, an increase in efficiency for technologies such as solar panels and wind turbines, and an increase in viability for ones such as biomass energy and tidal power. Presently, it's my understanding that wind and solar are still slightly more expensive than traditional energy sources, but the gap is decreasing

steadily. Even though alternative energy is more expensive, how much is our environment worth? How about our safety? Or our long term energy independence? These things are often overlooked in the name of per-kilowatt-hour cost savings, but they most certainly have significant value.

If we could only start considering all these factors, perhaps we would see an even stronger investment in alternative energy. Maybe instead of seeing continual applications for new nuclear power plants, we could instead see a gradual phasing out of this technologically marvellous, but dirty and inherently risky, energy source. Even you, the individual consumer, can get directly involved in the push for alternative energy. I'm actually typing this article from a wind-powered laptop. How, you ask? The first person to e-mail me at jdhammer (at) care2.com with the correct answer wins themselves a low-flow showerhead. And no, I do not have a wind turbine hooked up to my laptop.

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## Paranormal student body activity

### Douglas College's campus shows signs of life



**Jacey Gibb**  
opinions editor

It feels unusual to write an article praising our school for the amount of recent activity that has been witnessed in Douglas' concourse. For the last couple of weeks, there has been a constant presence of clubs and campaigns, offering a glimpse of the campus life we've seen portrayed so prominently in pop culture, yet have somehow managed to evade our own school.

Similar feelings are not uncommon here at Douglas. Seemingly every candidate running for student government brought up the issue of how most people enrolled here treat it as just a pit stop before they transfer to somewhere else. I hope whoever is elected makes good on these promises to change this attitude.

Election propaganda wasn't the only thing invading the concourse. There was the petition against bottled water, a fundraiser for the earthquake in Japan

and my personal favourite, the Saint Patrick's Day booth on the seventeenth. I would like to add that I have an enormous amount of respect for these agents of the DSU who promptly appear on every holiday in the concourse and admire their efforts to liven our otherwise apathetic student body. I stopped by to make an obligatory guess at how many chocolate gold coins were in the jar (still waiting for my phone call guys) and took the time to colour in a blank leprechaun hat. The girl manning the pencil crayons admitted that not a lot of students had stopped by to indulge in some drawing and I have no idea why. During this maelstrom of research essays and upcoming finals, someone offers a temporary relief in the form of blank colouring sheets and few accept? For shame!

One way Douglas might be able to keep up this kind of bustling beehive mentality is if more clubs emerge. The DSU has made it very clear that they are willing to support students who would like to organize themed groups around campus and I suggest that some people



start taking advantage of this. There aren't too many options around Douglas, if you're not interested in playing athletics on a college level that is. For me, the only other option seemed to be to join The Other Press and it has easily become one of my favourite things about this school. I met new people, got to do something I love and enjoyed a few perks that came with it. Now if only more clubs existed at Douglas so that everyone else could enjoy

experiences like this.

I supposed it's easy for me to suggest someone else initiate this change instead of doing it myself. But I've already found my club, so this article is meant for the rest of you. The quiet summer semester is approaching so now is the time to start brainstorming ideas for new, exciting groups to bolster the ranks of clubs at Douglas College. If you organize it, they will come.

## The arrival of music video Black 'Friday'

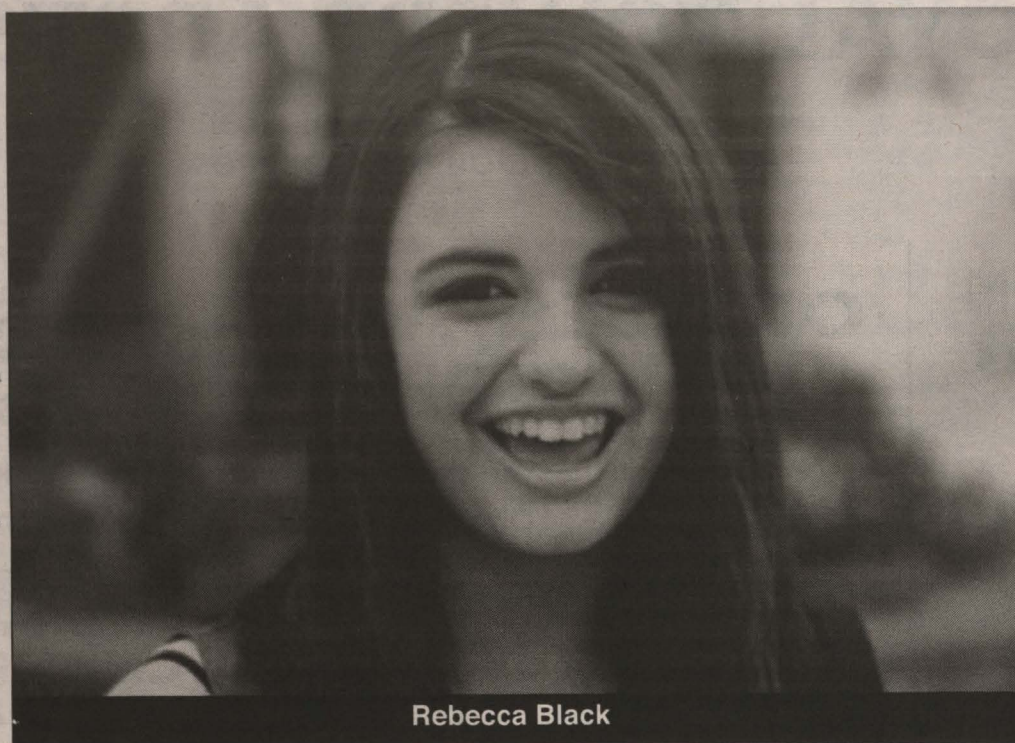
A brilliant satire or total bullsh\*t?

By Jacey Gibb

As if you're not already sick of hearing about this auto-tune abusing monstrosity, here's yet another viewpoint of Rebecca Black's huge (hit?) single 'Friday', whose video has been assaulting any willing ears and eyes.

Now I'm not digging for indie cred or anything here, but I first heard this piece of musical diarrhea on Saturday morning when it only had a couple thousand views. I was confused at first: was this some form of back to school at Zellers campaign or perhaps a viral fuelled prank looking to get a head start on April Fools? The meagre amount of views and absence of a prominent music label fuelled my speculation that Rebecca Black was just another internet creation waiting to make it big.

At this point I started to admire what the video represented. Similar to efforts before it, such as Robin Sparkles on *How I met your Mother*, this video's creator had collected enough details on what makes something awful and had incorporated enough of them to make something hilarious. I told my roommate about how enjoyable this satire



Rebecca Black

of postmodern pop music videos was and commended the creator for making such a believably bad imitation.

Unfortunately the Rebecca Black train had only begun gaining speed as suddenly my Facebook newsfeed became littered with posts 'lol'ing the atrocity and some form of legitimacy became more

prominent. I investigated the Youtube channel and was greeted with videos displaying the same cookie-cutter teen pop formula 'Friday' had featured so prominently. Though none can compare to the crown jewel performed by Ms. Black, they represent a new genre that threatens the very integrity of music.

I know I'm being condescending when it comes to musical preferences and perhaps some folks out there even enjoy the crap being peddled by the Ark Music Factory (if there are, they're probably tweens who aren't necessarily reading a college newspaper like this) but the existence of such 'talent' is unsettling.

I'm still not a hundred percent convinced this isn't some elaborate joke from Collegehumor or some form of social experiment examining how rapidly our society can become exposed to garbage on the internet. But with every million views the 'Friday' video gets, I become more concerned that it isn't.

The only way I know how to deal with this new sensation is the same way I've been handling Sheen fever: by completely ignoring it. I've been avoiding the internet, radio and Metro; I politely tune out when someone begins a joke on the topic; I've even started to focus more on global, more relevant news. Hopefully by the time I run out of emergency rations and emerge from my pop culture bomb shelter, the 'Friday' pandemic will have passed.



## Daniel Swain brings it home

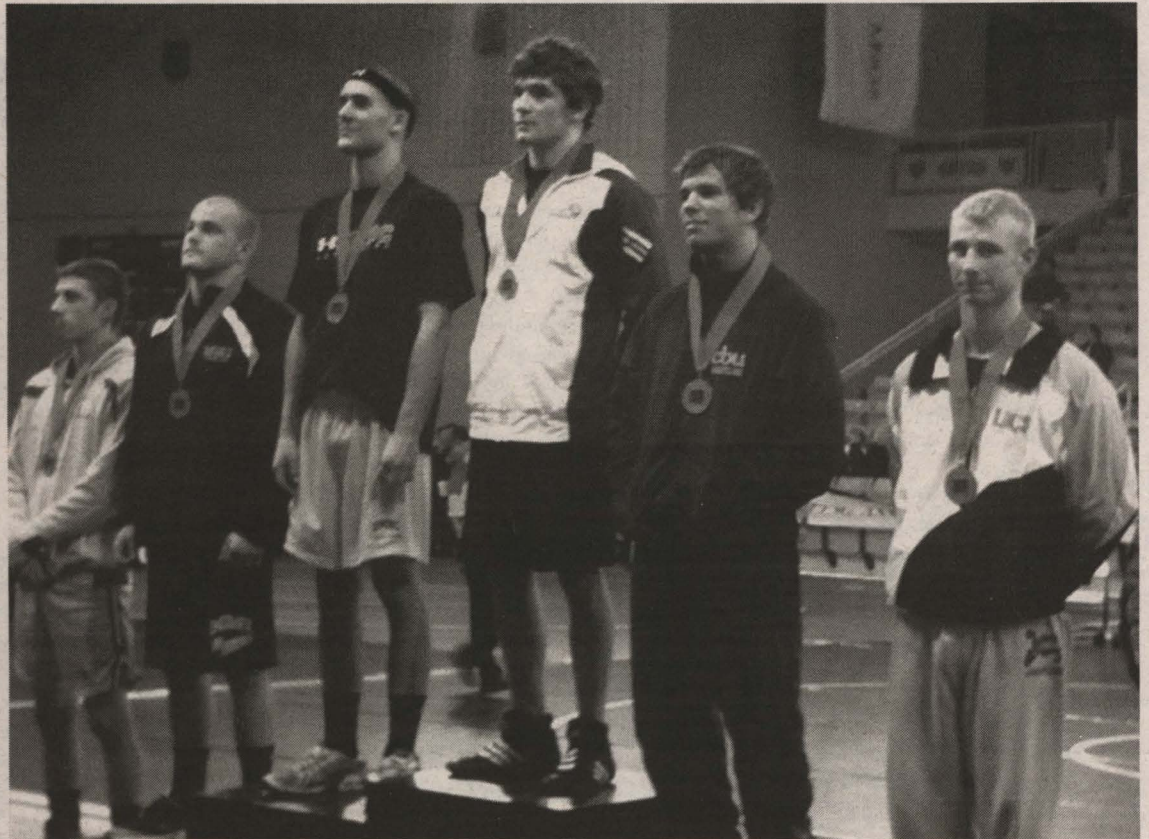
By Josh Martin, Sports Editor

Our very own Daniel Swain, who competes for the wrestling team here at Douglas College, captured the men's championship in the 149 lbs class last weekend at the National Collegiate Wrestling Association in Macon, Ga. The 20 year-old squared off against MA Baltimore's Daniel Carr in the finals where Swain ultimately took home the championship, defeating his opponent by a fall. In all five matches that Swain wrestled, he beat all of his opponents by fall, except for the semi-finals against Trevor Bailey from Marlon Military Institute. Douglas College was the only Canadian school that entered the tournament, so it's a pretty big accomplishment by Swain to take home the championship while representing his country.

With the victory, Swain completed his wrestling season with an impressive record of 10-0 in NCWA competition and is expected to compete in the US Open Freestyle Championships this summer.

"Daniel has a huge amount of confidence and wrestled like someone who expected to win," says Steve Rose, head wrestling coach at Douglas, "it was admirable how calm he was. He showed a great deal of poise. I think he has a great future. He also does mixed martial arts, and I think he's got a bright future in both."

The freshman is currently enrolled in general studies at Douglas College in his first year. Make sure to congratulate him if you see him around.



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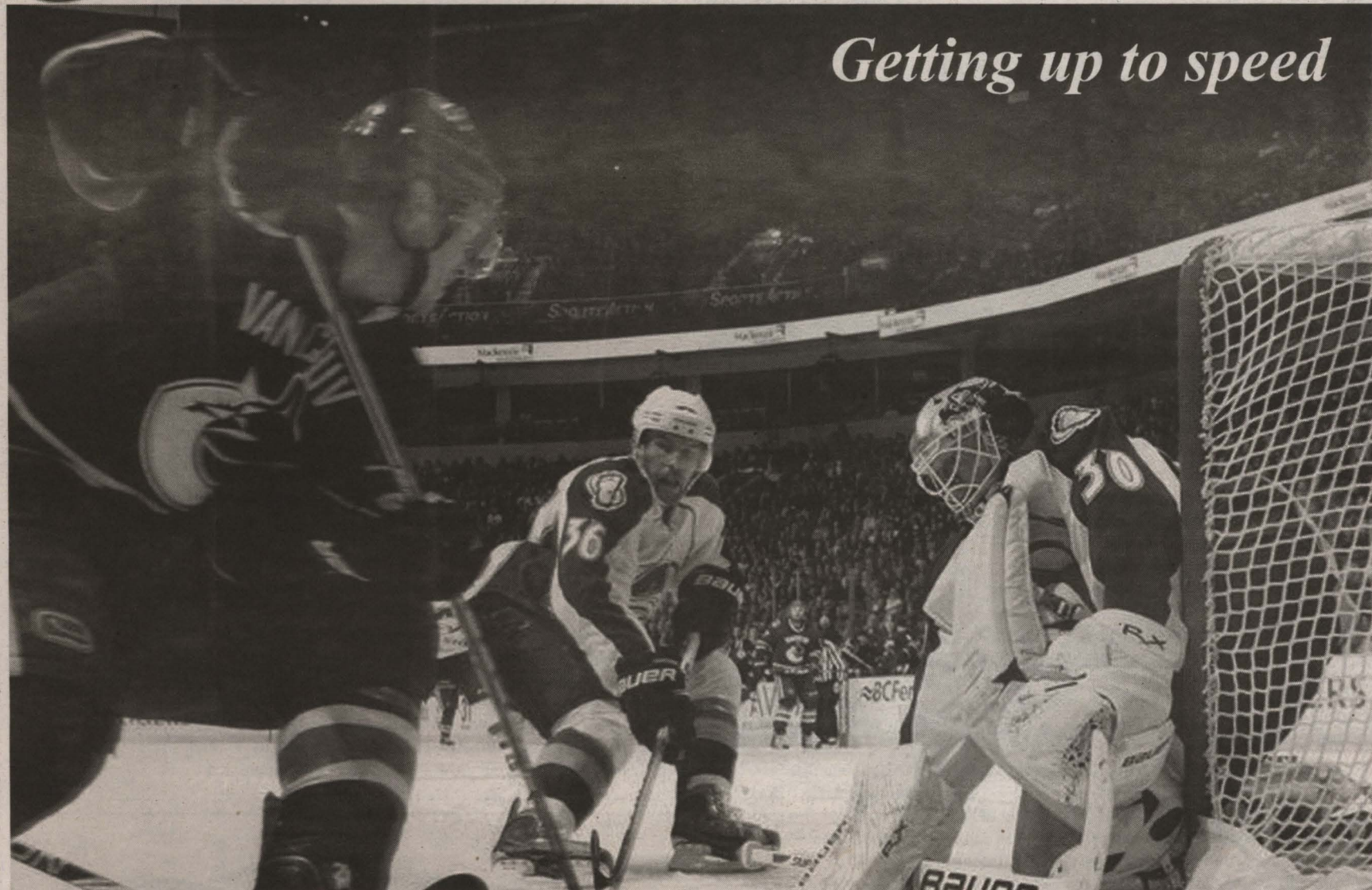
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# Canucks Corner



*Getting up to speed*



**Josh Martin**  
Sports Editor

**T**he Vancouver Canucks became the first NHL team in the 2010-11 season to clinch a playoff spot (along with the Northwest Division title) last week with a 4-2 win over the Colorado Avalanche. That marks the third consecutive season that they have taken the divisional crown and the fourth such time in the last five years. However, the competition in the Northwest this year has not been nearly as tough as it used to be with Colorado, Minnesota and Edmonton all out of the playoffs by quite a large margin.

Calgary is in the final playoff spot with 83 points, but that's a total of

20 points behind the Canucks which, to say the least, is a big gap between the number one and two teams in the Northwest. So, taking that into consideration, the season series between Vancouver and their division rivals has been a lot easier this season around for Alain Vigneault's squad. The Canucks hold a 16-2-2 record in Northwest games this season, a dominating statistic that has helped the Canucks capture the division title with nine games still remaining in the regular season.

Injuries have been a running theme for Vancouver this year, and the latest one limping to the infirmary is Manny Malhotra, who took a puck in the eye last week in a Vancouver win against the Avalanche and underwent immediate surgery following the contest. It is still uncertain if the

third line stalwart will be back in the Canucks line-up anytime soon. You can bet that when he returns he's going to be sporting a visor for the rest of his career (like every other player should be doing). Without Malhotra manning the penalty kill and lacking his otherworldly skills in the faceoff circle, there will be a huge hole to fill for the Canucks.

But life goes on and so do the Canucks. They've dealt with these types of injuries throughout the year with Sami Salo, Alex Edler, Kevin Bieksa and more all sustaining various wounds that have kept them off the ice for significant periods of time. The list goes on and on but they've somehow managed to get through those rough patches with other players stepping up to the plate. Perhaps Chris Higgins will be the man to take the

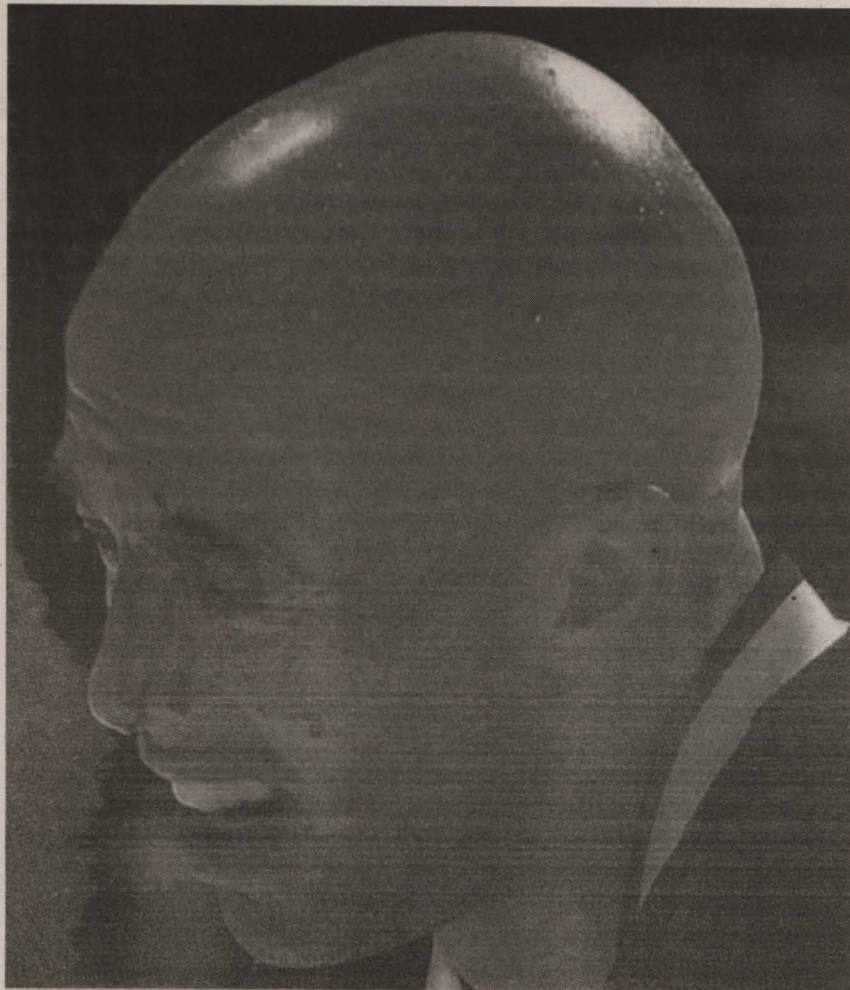
swing this time around.

In his last game against Colorado, Higgins had 17:18 minutes of ice time and set up Maxim Lapierre in front of the net for his first point as a Vancouver Canuck. The winger has 24 points on the season (11 goals and 13 assists), but is clearly capable of being a potential second line threat. He played a few shifts with Kesler and Samedsson at his side on the second line which seemed to be a lethal and promising combination. This might just be the defining moment and boost that Higgins needs in his career with an opportunity to show what he's actually made of, on a highly competitive team rather than the always-seem-to-be-terrible Florida Panthers.

Bring on the playoffs!



## Malhotra out indefinitely



By David Hollinshead

**T**he Canucks lost their best faceoff man in Manny Malhotra Wednesday during a game against the Colorado Avalanche when a puck ricocheted off a stick and hit his eye, an injury which has already required a surgical procedure. Malhotra, who does not wear a visor, saw a specialist on Thursday.

"I couldn't speculate until the specialist sees him and more tests are done," Canucks head coach Vigneault said when asked if there was any indication on how long Malhotra will be out of the line-up.

The Canucks were the first team to clinch a playoff spot with the win, and are used to filling holes in the line-up left by injuries. They have used a league leading 39 players this year, but filling the shoes of Malhotra may be a bit more challenging. The third line center, who is second among all faceoff men in the league with a sparkling 61.7 winning percentage, plays on the penalty kill and shares time on the second power play unit. He's scored 11 goals with 30 points this year after being signed this off season, but defenseman Kevin Bieksa

says more of Malhotra than that.

"He's a lot more valuable," Bieksa said of the Toronto native, "You could even call him our most valuable player for the season.

"He's a leader in the dressing room and off the ice. He's a voice on the bench, does a lot of things right but first and foremost we just hope he's OK."

Malhotra has won 778 faceoff's this season, including 145 while the Canucks were on the penalty kill, easily killing 25 seconds of the opponents power play allotment, which has helped the Canucks in forging the best penalty kill record in the league with a 28.8 killing percentage.

Vigneault said he expects his players to be able to step it up to fill the shoes of the Toronto native just as they did when the defence corps was riddled with injuries. Henrik Sedin will most likely see more time in the circle and trade deadline pickup Chris Higgins is being promoted to the second line to take place of winger Mason Raymond, who will try his hand at center on the fourth unit, moving Max Lapierre up to the third line between Raffi Torres and Jannik Hanson. Winger Viktor Oreskovich has been called up from the Manitoba Moose to fill the final wing slot on the fourth line.

## Whitecaps sign four players

By Josh Martin, Sports Editor

**L**ast Thursday the Vancouver Whitecaps FC prepared themselves for their big debut against Toronto FC with last minute touch-ups by signing midfielders Russell Teibert and Alexandre Morfaw, striker Camilo da Silva Sanvezzo and centre back Michael Boxall. The four players joined the rest of the roster right before the season opener.

Teibert is the youngest of the bunch at 18 years of age. The Niagara Falls, Ontario native has represented Canada at the youth international level and appeared at the 2009 CONCACAF U-17 Championship in Tijuana, Mexico. The small framed, 5-foot-7, 145 pound winger is excited to be playing in Vancouver.

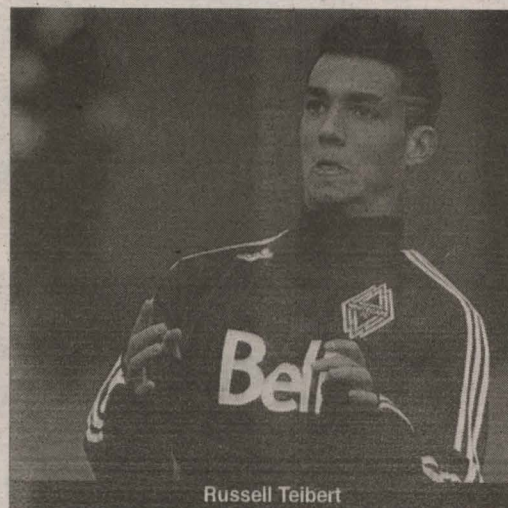
"It's a great feeling to be signed by this great club. Vancouver is like a hometown to me," said Teibert. "The Whitecaps have helped me grow as a

player since I arrived here in 2008, so it's exciting for me to break through to the first team."

Morfaw, the 23 year-old from Paris, France, is becoming a part of the MLS Whitecaps after having initially joined the club on August 10, 2010. He spent a couple of seasons with Sweden's Bodens

Bandyklubb prior to his stint with the 'Caps and helped them earn a promotion to the third-tier Division 1 Norra for the 2010 season.

Boxall, from New Zealand, and Camilo, from Brazil, both at the age of 22, join the team as well. Camilo was the top scorer in both the Maltese Premier League



Russell Teibert

(24 goals) and Maltese FA Trophy (six goals) while Boxall joins the Whitecaps after being the top pick in the 2011 MLS Supplement Draft back on January 18. It's quite an impressive range of players from all over the world which brings a very exciting time in the world of soccer to Vancouver which I'm sure will leave no one disappointed.

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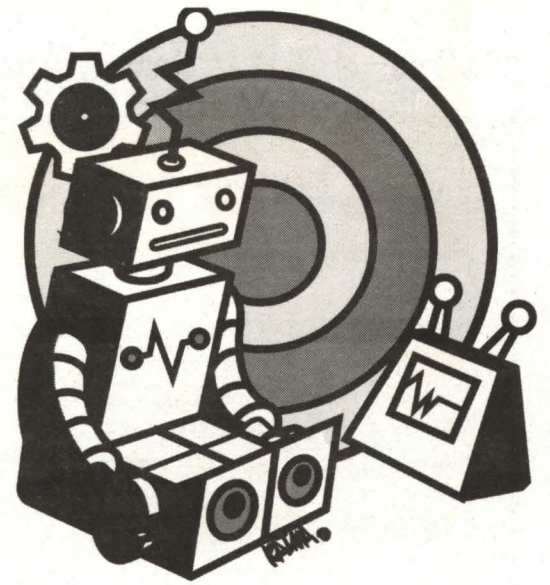
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# U-Pass News

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